

Appl. No. 09/996,271
Amdt. dated April 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 6, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 9 and 23-27 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 23 have been amended to include the limitations of allowable claims 4 and 28 respectively. Claims 4, 10-13 and 15-22 have been canceled. No new matter has been added to this application.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 4 and 28 contain allowable subject matter. As indicated above, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 23 to include the limitations of claims 4 and 28 respectively. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 23, as amended are in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9 and 24-27, which depend upon independent claims 1 and 23 respectively are also in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 1- 3, 6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1- 3, 6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0080170 A1 (Goldberg). The Examiner contends that Goldberg discloses Applicants' invention as claimed. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 4 which the Examiner has indicated contains allowable subject matter. As such, Applicants submit that the above rejection is moot. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1- 3, 6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 23 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 23 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Goldberg in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0047373 A1 (Jones). The Examiner correctly notes that Goldberg does not teach or disclose a black and white image processor that includes a pixel smearing component and an image filtering component. The Examiner contends

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that Jones discloses a black and white image processor that includes a pixel smearing component and an image filtering component. The Examiner argues that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Goldberg to include the image processor of Jones. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants have amended claim 23 to include the limitations of claim 28 which the Examiner has indicated contains allowable subject matter. As such, Applicants submit that the above rejection is moot and request that the rejection of claims 23 and 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

The Examiner has rejected claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Goldberg in view of Jones and further in view of Rothermel. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

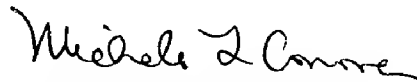
As indicated above, Applicants have amended independent claim 23 to include the limitations of claim 28 which the Examiner has indicated contains allowable subject matter. Applicants submit that claim 24 which depends upon claim 23 is also allowable. As such, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 24 be withdrawn.

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Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 6, 8, 9 and 23-27, as amended, are in condition for allowance and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should he have any questions in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



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